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U.S. Application No. 09/709,038 Examiner LEZAK, Arrienne, Art Unit 2143  
Response to January 27, 2005 Office Action

### AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying to a sender of a communication an availability of members through their contact devices, comprising:

storing a profile on each member, the profile identifying at least one contact device for each member, with each member's profile assigned a random and unique code number, and each member's profile requiring a password to access the profile;

exchanging each member's code number and password amongst the other members to allow each member to access every other member's profile;

receiving a first selection from the sender to verify a chosen member's communications presence information;

using the chosen member's code number to determine which of the chosen member's contact devices are available to receive the communication;

providing the communications presence information ~~on the profile for each member~~ to the sender; and

receiving a second selection from the sender to initiate the communication with one of the chosen member's available contact devices

~~tracking a communications presence of the contact device for each member, the tracking including determining the availability of the contact device for each member; and~~

~~providing to the sender a graphical presentation for each member's available contact devices, with the graphical presentation, when selected by the sender, initiating the communication with a chosen member's available contact device.~~

2. (Cancel)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a notification that the chosen member's contact device ~~associated with each member~~ is active.

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4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising connecting the sender user to the chosen member via ~~having~~ the active contact device.
5. (Cancel)
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein using the chosen member's code number to determine ~~determining the~~ availability of a ~~the~~ contact device comprises querying the contact device.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein using the chosen member's code number to determine ~~determining the~~ availability of a ~~the~~ contact device comprises querying a network provider associated with the contact device.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising connecting the sender user to the contact device.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a message to the contact device.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the profile comprises enabling a plurality of contact devices to be stored for each member.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the profile comprises storing addressing information for each contact device.
12. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating communication between a user and members of a communications circle, comprising:

a database for storing profiles of all members of the communications circle, each profile identifying at least one contact device for each member with each member's

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profile assigned a random and unique code number, and each member's profile requiring a password to access the profile; and

a communications server exchanging each member's code number and password amongst the other members to allow each member to access every other member's profile, the communications server

receiving a first selection from the user to verify a chosen member's communications presence information;

using the chosen member's code number to determine which of the chosen member's contact devices are available to receive the communication;

providing the communications presence information to the sender; and

receiving a second selection from the sender to initiate the communication with one of the chosen member's available contact devices

~~for retrieving the profile from the database and for determining an availability of the contact device for each member in the communications circle, the communications server providing the profile and information on the availability of the contact device to the user upon request, the communications server providing to the sender a graphical presentation for each member's available contact devices, the graphical presentation, when selected by the sender, initiating the communication with a chosen member's available contact device;~~

~~wherein, from the profile and the information on the availability of the member, the sender can initiate contact with any one of the members in the communications circle.~~

13. (Cancel)

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the communications presence information ~~on the availability of the contact device~~ indicates if the contact device is active.

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15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the profile includes an address for the contact device.
16. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the communications server connects the user to one of the members in the communications circle.
17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the communications server connects the user to the one member of the communications circle through the Internet.
18. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the communications server connects the user to the one member of the communications circle through an email message.
19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the communications server connects the user to the one member of the communications circle through a page sent to the one member.
20. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the contact device of the one member comprises a wireless device and the communications server connects the user to the one member of the communications through a wireless network.
21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein the chosen ~~one~~ member of the communications server has an interactive television and the communications server connects the user to the interactive television of the chosen ~~one~~ member.
22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein the chosen ~~one~~ member of the communications circle has a personal computer with access to the Internet through an internet service provider and the communications server connects the user to the personal computer of the chosen ~~one~~ member.

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23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein the communications server connects the user to an Internet appliance of the chosen ~~one~~ member of the communications circle.
24. (Currently Amended) An interface for being provided to a sender of a communication to display communications presence information on a sender's communications circle, comprising:

a communications section for displaying the members of the sender's communications circle, each member in the communications circle having at least one contact device through which each member may communicate with the sender;

a profile section for displaying profile information on each member of the communications circle, the profile information identifying each member, listing contact devices associated with each member, and displaying an availability of each of the contact devices; and

a contact section exchanging each member's code number and password amongst the other members to allow each member to access every other member's profile, the contact section receiving a first selection from the sender to verify a chosen member's communications presence information, the contact section using the chosen member's code number to determine which of the chosen member's contact devices are available to receive the communication, the contact section providing the communications presence information to the sender, and the contact section receiving a second selection from the sender to initiate the communication with one of the chosen member's available contact devices ~~displaying a graphical presentation for each member's available contact devices, the graphical presentation, when selected by the sender, initiating the communication with a chosen member's available contact device;~~

wherein the sender is able to determine which contact device is available by viewing the profile information on the members of the communications circle and can initiate contact with any member having an available contact device.

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25. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein the communications section displays a name of each member in the communications circle.
26. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein the communications section displays the contact devices associated with each member of the communications circle.
27. (Previously Presented) The interface of claim 24, wherein the communications section has a link for allowing the sender to view the profile section.
28. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface includes the profile section for each of the members in the communications circle.
29. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 24, wherein the profile section displays address information for the contact devices associated with each member and the availability of each contact device.
30. (Cancel)
31. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display on a personal computer.
32. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display on a wireless device.
33. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display through a pager.
34. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display through a wireless telephone.

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35. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display on an interactive television.
36. (Original) The interface of claim 24, wherein the interface is for display on a personal digital assistant.